

workmen themselves will not work on Sunday.

In Hongkong we must arrive at the same state by the same process, a compulsory law. The more the subject is discussed, the more apparent does it become that this is the only remedy. If shipowners take the same view as Mr Mackintosh, and a great many of them do, if their heads are bent to their ledgers as closely as his, and a great many heads are so inclined, is there any hope of voluntary co-operation or is there any prospect of its permanence? Is it likely that some owners will grant Sunday rest, if others refuse? Is it in human nature to willingly make such sacrifices, which may become real sacrifices because the absence of a compulsory law putting all on equal terms, may, within such a narrow area of this Colony, give at least a temporary benefit to a firm which insists on Sunday labour. As we have over and over again repeated, there is nothing so peculiar to Hongkong as to make the regulations in force in other places inapplicable here. The Custom House bogy is a pure creation of the imagination. It is not in reality the fact of a Custom House being closed that keeps a shipmaster from discharging his ship; it is the fact that he knows he will be punished if he does so. So, in Hongkong, a shipmaster would not seek to discharge or load his ship if he knew that the law forbade it. What does it matter if the detective service is a Police launch instead of a Custom launch? The end is equally secured.

If the interview with the Administrator has one lesson it is this—that the time has gone by for discussion and argument in Hongkong. The rest of the fight must be carried on in England; and we can assure the members of the Officers' Association—according to advice received by this mail from an influential source that the contest is by no means hopeless, that indeed victory is close at hand.

TELEGRAMS.

(Supplied to THE CHINA MAIL.)

(Via Southern Line.)

THE FINANCIAL CRISIS.

London, 18th November, 1890.

The London Standard states that the financial crisis in the city was hastened by the Russian Government suddenly withdrawing 5,000,000 (sterling) from Baring Brothers.

(From Singapore Papers.)

GREAT BRITAIN AND PORTUGAL.

London, 11th Nov.—A temporary understanding, to remain in force for six months, has been concluded between Great Britain and Portugal. The recent convention has been withdrawn and the state of things as they were before will be recognised.

LORD SALISBURY AT THE GUILDHALL.

London, 11th Nov.—Speaking at the banquet at the Guildhall, the Marquis of Salisbury said that all men were peaceful. The Czar with during his visit to India would be the guest of Her Majesty the Queen, which was a place of peace. The Prime Minister was confident that the parleying with Italy would be a success; not so with Portugal; but there was no danger of sinister results in view of the universal arming for conflict. With regard to Tariffs it was important to consider whether the madness of our neighbours would not deflect Great Britain from Free Trade.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

London, 12th Nov.—A railway collision has occurred at Taunton in which ten persons were killed and eight injured. They were mostly emigrants just returned from the Cape of Good Hope.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

PASSED SUEZ CANAL.

OUTWARD BOUND.—Oman, Oct. 21; Pessiden, 24; Benlauer, Telam, 31; Ceylon, Siam, Shanghai, Ispahan, Hazet, Nov. 4; Belcheron, Glenyon, Port Fairy, Tevik, 7; Jangut, Lochet, 11.

HOMEWARD BOUND.—Port Phillip, Albany, Oct. 24; Glenharney, Glenore, 20; Aster, Hongkong, 31; Bellona, Peshawar, 7; Breconshire, Moyone, Patrocks, 11; Exeter, 11.

The P. & O. s. s. *Thames*, with the English Mail of Oct. 24th, left Singapore on Tuesday, the 18th November, at 2 p.m., and may be expected here on or about Sunday, the 23rd Nov. This Packet brings replies to letters despatched from Hongkong on Sept. 18th.

The s.s. *Radnorshire* left Singapore on Nov. 14th, and may be expected here on or about Nov. 20.

The O. S. S. Co.'s steamer *Palamedes*, from Liverpool, left Singapore on the 16th Nov., and may be expected here on or about the 23rd Nov.

The O. S. S. Co.'s s. s. *Achilles*, from Liverpool, left Singapore on Nov. 18th, and may be expected here on or about Nov. 25.

The s.s. *Kaitang*, with mails, &c., from Calcutta, left Singapore on the 19th Nov., and may be expected here on or about 26th Nov.

The P. & O. Co.'s s. s. *Gunsior* left Bombay for this port on Nov. 8th.

The P. & O. s. s. *Brindisi* left London for this port on the 1st Nov.

Messrs Jardine, Matheson & Co. inform us that the steamer *Kaitang*, from Calcutta for this port, left Singapore yesterday at 5 p.m.

There will be a game of Polo at Causeway Bay at 4.30 p.m., to-morrow (Friday), the 21st instant.

There will be a Practice Dance at the City Hall at 5.30 p.m. to-morrow Friday, the 21st, in anticipation of the St. Andrew's Ball.

This Chinese boy, who is alleged to have stabbed a Portuguese schoolboy named Calpin, in Hollywood Road on Tuesday morning, was brought before Mr Wodehouse in the Police Court to-day, when the case was remanded. The boy who was stabbed is progressing favourably. It is but right to state that neither of the boys belonged to the Victoria College, as was stated.

The prisoner Xavier, who was brought from Macao yesterday by Inspector Quincey and Sergt. Melver, on a charge of embezzling over \$1000, the moneys of the Supreme Court, was brought before Mr Wodehouse at the Police Court to-day, when the case was remanded at the request of the Crown Solicitor, who is to conduct the prosecution.

WONG KWAN, a private chair-coach, was charged before Mr Wodehouse to-day with setting fire to the house No. 35 Bridges Street this morning. It is said that the prisoner had a quarrel last night with a girl who lives in the house mentioned, and that he afterwards tried to revenge himself by setting the house on fire. The wooden partition of the staircase had been saturated with kerosene, and was burning fiercely when the inmates became aware of their danger, and succeeded, with assistance, in extinguishing the flames before they had got hold of any other part of the house.

A RANTRY-BY, employed on board the C. N. Co.'s s. s. *Taiyuan*, was charged before Mr Wodehouse to-day with stealing a number of tins of preserved provisions belonging to the vessel. Defendant, who admitted the charge, was found in the act of carrying the stolen goods from the ship. The chief steward said the stores in question had all been served out since the ship left Sydney and must have been secreted from time to time. Mr Bent (Measur Butterfield and Swire's) stated that a good deal of pilfering of stores went on and he therefore asked that a heavy penalty be imposed. The defendant was sentenced to six months' hard labour.

We are indebted to the Hon. H. E. Wodehouse, M.C., Hon. Sec. to the Jubilee Committee, for the following paragraph:—A meeting of the Jubilee committee was held at the City Hall this afternoon, Mr Thomas Jackson presiding. The Chairman explained that the meeting was convened for the purpose of completing the formation of the Committee, which it was desirable should be as complete and representative as possible, and which had not been drawn up in other than a preliminary form. It was proposed by the Hon. T. H. Whitehead and seconded by Mr E. Macintosh and unanimously carried that Mr Honour the Chief Justice, Sir James Russell, C.M.G., the Hon. C. P. Chatter, Mr Thomas Jackson, and the Hon. H. E. Wodehouse, C.M.G., be constituted a sub-committee for the purpose of drawing up a complete and representative Committee with as little delay as possible. This was the only business before the meeting.

THE *Singapore Free Press* is naturally interested in Captain Dunn's cricketing achievements as he will be one of the team that is to represent Hongkong in Singapore. Referring to his first century this season, our contemporary says:—It may be a dead that Dunn, the now Hongkong cricketer, during one season in Ireland, was credited with seven centuries.

When the mail left London the stock and money-markets were barely firming from a panic-stricken condition over things in general. In the time of profound and unbroken peace, the market at what may be called war prices (94), and Home Affairs were heavily depressed. International loan securities were practically unsaleable, and were only held up from a panic fall by the action of the greater financiers who hold them in quantity. Mining shares fell heavily all round.

WESTERN Australia no longer figures among Crown colonies. Last month, by virtue of an Act passed by the Imperial Parliament, she was endowed with representative institutions, like the other Australian Colonies. The Governor will be advised by ministers responsible to a parliament of two houses. The new constitution was proclaimed on the 21st ultimo, amid general public rejoicings and great display. The elections for the parliament are fixed for December.

The London correspondent of a provincial paper learns that the rumour which has been current in official circles for some time that Sir Arthur Nicolson, at present Consul-General at Hongkong, is to succeed Sir John Walsam as Minister to China, is to say the least of it, premature. Although Sir John Walsam is shortly coming home, and will probably not return to Pekin, the appointment of his successor has not yet been considered by the Foreign Office authorities. Sir Arthur, who, by the way, is a brother-in-law of Lord Dufferin, is one of the ablest of the younger men in our diplomatic service, but it would be a very long jump from Hongkong to Pekin, especially as he has never reached the rank of Secretary of Embassy. At the same time he has had great experience in dealing with Oriental nations, and the position at Pekin is acknowledged to be outside the ordinary rules of diplomatic protocol.

M. JULES Ferry has consented to become a candidate for the office of Delegate to the Superior Council at Indochina, for the Indo-Chinese countries placed under France's protectorate. This he has done at the initiative of an important body of colonists in Tong-King. There is no doubt that M. Jules Ferry takes as much interest as ever in the welfare of Annam and Tong-King, for his share in the prosecution of which he has been so much abused by his opponents. The Colonial Council is for the Colonies what the Council of State is for France, except that the members of the latter are appointed by the Government, and the former elected.

The Legislative Council will meet on Monday next, at 3 p.m. The following are the Orders of the Day:—

1. Financial Minutes.

2. Honourable T. H. Whitehead will ask the following questions:—
1. Is the Government aware that the water supply to the Robinson Road district was cut off for several days last week, and that no notice whatever was given of the fact so as to allow the inhabitants to make provision to obtain water from some other source? Will the Government issue the necessary instructions so that the public may have some notice in future of when and for how long it is proposed to cut off the water supply?

2. Is the Government aware that there is a very great scarcity of water in the Western district of the Peak, and that the Government state what measures they are taking, or propose to take, to meet the emergency?

3. First reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Law relating to Bankruptcy.

4. Third reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Public Health Ordinance of 1887.

5. Third reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Arms Ordinance of 1888.

6. Committee on the Appropriation Bill, 1891.

7. Committee on the Bill entitled The Squatters' Ordinance, 1890.

8. Committee on the Bill entitled An Ordinance to give further Powers to Companies with respect to the Alteration of their Memoranda of Association.

Missions in the East, says a Ceylon contemporary, are probably to obtain a larger accession of workers this season than for many years back. Every steamer is bringing welcome additions to the ranks in India and China, and numerous parties have yet to go through. One Ceylon steamer, it is said, has no less than 25 of a missionary party. Our own island is not forgotten, as all the local evangelical Missions are likely to be strengthened.

On the 10th inst. at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Singapore, Miss Olga Smit, eldest daughter of Mr Th. Smit, was married to the German Consul, Mr H. Eschke, in the presence of the largest & most brilliant assemblage of wedding guests that has been seen in Singapore for many years past. The bridegroom, Mr H. Eschke, is a son of the late Governor and Lady Dickson, Colonel Burton-Brown (Royal Artillery), Mr G. Lavino (Consul for the Netherlands), Mr Donner (Belgian Consul), Mr Vyvoda (Russian Consul), Mr D. Brandt (Austrian Consul), and almost all of the leading residents of Singapore were present. The Cathedral was full from end to end, and there must have been over 500 persons.

THE 'chit' system, says a naval contemporary, by which everything is obtained on 'credit,' as a general rule, throughout China and Japan, is now and again taken advantage of too generously by junior naval officers, either for the good of the service or their individual reputation as gentlemen. Instances have come to our knowledge recently which it would be undesirable to bring to public notice, but young officers should remember that if they indulge in pleasures and luxuries which they cannot afford, it must be at the expense of other people.

Mr J. L. Bowes, the Japanese Consul at Liverpool, has presented a copy of his new work upon Japanese art to the Hawarden Library, and has received the following letter from Mr Gladstone:—'Hawarden, Oct. 10. My dear Sir, I have to thank you for a work all beautiful and interesting apart from its obvious qualities. I rejoice cordially in all that tends to spread the knowledge and elevate further the justly high reputation of Japan in England. While I am somewhat inclined to be cosmopolitan as a rule, I have felt, ever since the great movement towards reform in that country, that it had peculiar and exceptional claims upon our sympathy. I heartily hope our character may be as good there as I believe it character to be here. May the Almighty Father, who wills the happiness of all His creatures, bless and prosper the land you represent in Liverpool, as well as that in which you reside. Believe me, faithfully yours, W. E. Gladstone, James L. Bowes, Esq.'

ENGLISH COAL SUPPLIES.—Who will say that coal supplies in England are going out! Mr Lewis, speaking at the meeting of the Federated Institution of Mining Engineers in Nottingham, declared that if any enterprising person were to obtain permission of the Town Council of that famous historical town to sink a pit in their market-place (as was told, by the way, that there is a sample room at what would seem to come down upon the top of a hard seam of coal, and that at a depth probably not exceeding three hundred yards. Mr Lewis even tells us that the whole thickness of the coal measures is there. This, if literally true, would mean that, at least for three thousand years, the coal might go on sinking through seams of coal. For some years past the Nottingham coalfields have been more and more developed; but Mr Lewis is of opinion that we have as yet 'little more than touched the fringe' of the great Nottingham coalfield. These vast undeveloped resources will be there for our use as the time recites them, or as the smaller collieries at the outcrop of the coal in Derbyshire and West Noits become exhausted.

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—The Chinese are increasing at such a rate in Kimberley that shopkeepers and workmen are threatening to rise in revolt against them. Though Kimberley is comparatively a new town, the Celestial visitors have already established themselves in seventy-five shops, and are gradually but surely obtaining a monopoly of the manner kinds of labour. Many of them are even employed as messengers, carpenters, and painters. Public meetings, with the Mayor of Kimberley in the chair, have been held denouncing them; but the more they are stormed at the more numerous they become. They do not marry, have no families to support, look aloof at churches and theatres, and decline to waste their substance on the follies of football or cricket. A white labourer has no chance of competing with them. The native African bows his woolly pate in despair before the all-powerful pig-tail, while even the hard-working Malay has to succumb in the struggle against the oblique-eyed Mongol, and retire to the Spice Islands in the Indian sea.

The Government of India has sanctioned an expenditure of 14 lakhs for the repair of the overland telegraph line to Persia, the insulation of which is defective.

The steamer *Rothery* of the Calcutta S. S. Company, Liverpool, was wrecked at Gile on the 31st ult. She was bound from Cardiff to Batavia with a cargo of coal of the value of £5,000. The crew were saved, and it was expected that a part of the cargo would be saved. The steamer itself is a total wreck.

We read in a home paper that 'The American girl's latest restoration is quinine. She carries it in the form of pills in an ornamental out-glass bottle with a gold stopper. It has quite superseded morphia and strychnine lozenges. If she is tired she takes two pills; if in a draught, one; if angry, four or five; and if how fast she will get the correct number. Each pill contains two grains. Six are a cure for indigestion. The quinine bottle is produced on all occasions and in all sorts of places.' This news will be gratefully received. If every American girl who gets her feet wet will take 20 grains of quinine then the unit will go up to 64 grains. We are not told, however, how many pills are taken when the American girl sees a mouse or a beetle!—*Times* of Ceylon.

It is to be feared, says the *Army and Navy Gazette*, that the money expended upon the scientific branches of the service is not always employed in a very judicious manner. The *Illustrated* is spending a fourth season in the survey of the Chesapeake Archipelago, the southward of Shanghai, although the charts which have already been made for the scientific purposes of the service are quite sufficiently accurate for all practical purposes, as both Captain Verker and Commander W. Moore spent a good deal of time on the work. Surveying officers complain bitterly that they are continually hampered by their instructions from the Home Office, and that a great deal of useful work is thus carried out, to the neglect of really important surveys recommended by themselves and by the Admirals of foreign stations.

THE CRICKET TOUR TO SINGAPORE.—The *Ceylon Times* says:—We are very glad that at length all the preliminaries regarding the tour of a cricket team to Singapore have been arranged and settled, and that the team will leave Colombo on the 24th of December. This will take them to Singapore on Tuesday, the 30th—the same day as the steamer will arrive from Hongkong. It is probable, therefore, that the first match will take place on Friday and Saturday, the 2nd and 3rd of January—against Hongkong we hope, as they will be equally handicapped with our team in having to play so soon after their arrival, and neither would have an advantage over the Hongkong team. However, it is to be stronger than the Straits—almost all events the Straits team which visited Hongkong some time ago got beaten; but how they stand now we do not know. Our team will most likely play Hongkong, then the Singapore C.C., and afterwards the Straits Settlements; and may the best team win—we hope it will be ours! Your tour is pretty certain to be one of the most pleasant and enjoyable ever taken by a Ceylon cricket team, and we hope it may be possible for us hereafter to return the hospitality of our Straits friends in Ceylon.

SEVERE ON KIPPLING.—A writer in a London magazine asks—when is the literary interregnum to cease? Such writers as Mr. Rudyard Kipling have too long in their turn looked it over their fellow writers whose heads are also earned by the pen. The consequence is that we hear complaints as to the quality of our extant literary lions. When compared with the lions of the past their dimensions are inconsiderable, their approach is close. Of the great men of letters, Kipling has too long in their turn looked it over their fellow writers whose heads are also earned by the pen. The consequence is that we hear complaints as to the quality of our extant literary lions. When compared with the lions of the past their dimensions are inconsiderable, their approach is close. Of the great men of letters, Kipling has too long in their turn looked it over their fellow writers whose heads are also earned by the pen. The consequence is that we hear complaints as to the quality of our extant literary lions. 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